

PRESIDENT M'KINLEY HAS PASSED AWAY

"Good Bye All" Are the President's Last Words.

MILBURN HOUSE, BUFFALO, Sept. 14.—President McKinley died at 2:15 a. m. He had been unconscious since 7:50 p. m. His last conscious hour on earth was spent with his wife, to whom he devoted a lifetime of care. He died unattended by a minister of the Gospel, but his last words were a humble submission to the will of the God in whom he believed. He was reconciled to the cruel fate to which an assassin's bullet had condemned him and faced death in the same spirit of calmness which has marked his long and honorable career. His last conscious words, reduced to writing by Dr. Mann, who stood at his bedside when they were uttered, were:

"GOOD-BY ALL."

"Good-by, all; good-by. It is God's way. His will be done."

His relatives and the members of his official family were at the Milburn house, except Secretary Wilson, who did not avail himself of the opportunity, and some of his personal and political friends took leave of him. This painful ceremony was simple. His friends came to the door of the sick room, took a longing glance at him and turned tearfully away. He was practically unconscious during this time. But the powerful heart stimulants, including oxygen, were employed to restore him to consciousness for the final parting with his wife. He asked for her and she sat at his side and held his hand. He consoled her and bade her good-by. She went through the heart-rending scene with the same bravery and fortitude with which she has borne the grief of the tragedy which ended his life.

TO DECIDE CAUSE.

The immediate cause of the President's death is undetermined. His physicians disagree, and it will probably require an autopsy to fix the exact cause.

The President's remains will be taken to Washington and there will be a state funeral.

MILBURN HOUSE, BUFFALO, Sept. 14.—From authoritative officials the following details of the final scenes in and about the death chamber were secured:

The President had continued in an unconscious state since 8:30 p. m. Dr. Rixey remained with him at all times and until death came. The other doctors were in the room at times and they repaired to the front room, where the consultation had been held. About 2 o'clock Dr. Rixey noticed unmistakable signs of dissolution and the members of the family were summoned to the bedside. Mrs. McKinley was asleep and it was desirable not to awaken her for the last moments of anguish.

STAND BY BEDSIDE.

Silently and sadly the members of the family stole into the room. They stood about the foot and sides of the bed where the great man's life was ebbing away. Those in the circle were: Abner McKinley, the President's brother; Mrs. Abner McKinley, Miss Helen, the President's sister; Mrs. Sarah Duncan, another sister; Miss Mary Barber, a niece; Miss Sarah Duncan, Lieutenant J. F. McKinley, a nephew; William M. Duncan, a nephew; Charles Dawes, the Comptroller of the Currency; F. M. Osborne, a cousin; Colonel Webb C. Hayes, John A. Barber, a nephew; Secretary George B. Cortelyou; Colonel W. C.

Brown, the business partner of Abner McKinley; Dr. P. M. Rixey, the family physician, and six nurses and attendants.

In an adjoining room sat the physicians, including Drs. McBurney, Washlin, Park, Stockton and Mynter.

DEATH IS ANNOUNCED.

It was now 2:05 o'clock and the minutes were slipping away. Only the sobs of those in the circle about the President's bedside broke the awfully silence. Five minutes passed, then six, seven, eight—

Now Dr. Rixey bent forward and then one of his hands was raised as if in warning. The fluttering heart was just going to rest. A moment more and Dr. Rixey straightened up and with choking voice said:

"The President is dead."

Secretary Cortelyou was the first to turn from the stricken circle. He stepped from the chamber to the outer hall and then down the stairway to the large room where the members of the Cabinet, Senators and distinguished officials were assembled. As his tense white face appeared at the doorway a hush fell upon the assemblage.

"Gentlemen, the President has passed away," he said. For a moment not a word came in reply. Even though the end had been expected the actual announcement that Mr. McKinley was dead fairly stunned these men who had been his closest confidants and advisers. Then a groan of anguish went up from the assembled officials. They cried like children. All the pent up emotions of the last few days were let loose. They turned from the room and came from

the house with streaming eyes.

MILBURN HOUSE, BUFFALO, Sept. 13.—Before 6 o'clock it was clear to those at the President's bedside that he was dying, and preparations were made for the last sad offices of farewell from those who were nearest and dearest to him. Oxygen had been administered steadily, but with little effect in keeping back the approach of death. The President came out of one period of unconsciousness only to relapse into another. But in this period, when his mind was partially clear, occurred a series of events of profoundly touching character. Downstairs, with strained and tear-stained faces, members of the cabinet were grouped in anxious waiting. They knew the end was near and that the time had come when they must see him for the last time on earth. This was about 6 o'clock.

One by one they ascended the stairway. Secretary Root, Secretary Hitchcock, and Secretary Wilson were there. There was only a momentary stay of the cabinet officers at the threshold of the death chamber. Then they withdrew, tears streaming down their faces and words of intense grief choking in their throats.

ASKS FOR HIS WIFE.

After they had left the sickroom the physicians rallied him to consciousness and the President asked almost immediately that his wife be brought to him. The doctors fell back into the shadows of the room as Mrs. McKinley came through the doorway. The strong face of the dying man was lighted up with a faint smile as their hands were clasped. She sat beside him and held his hand. Despite her physical weakness she bore up bravely under the ordeal.

The President, in his last period of consciousness, which ended about 7:40, chanted the words of the hymn, "Nearer, My God, to Thee," and his last audible words, as taken down by Dr. Mann, at the bedside, were: "Good by, all; good by. It is God's way. His will be done."

Then his mind began to wander, and soon he completely lost consciousness. His life was prolonged for hours by the administration of oxygen, and the President finally expressed a desire to be allowed to die. About 8:30 the administration of oxygen ceased, and the pulse grew fainter and fainter. He was sinking gradually, like a child, into the eternal slumber. By 10 o'clock the pulse could no longer be felt in his extremities, and they grew cold.

Below stairs the grief-stricken gathering waited sadly for the end. All the evening those who had hastened here as fast as steel and steam could carry them continued to arrive. They drove up in carriages at a gallop or were whisked up in automobiles, all intent upon getting here before death came. One of the last to arrive was Attorney General Knox, who reached the house at 9:30. He was permitted to go upstairs to look for the last time upon the face of his chief. Those in the house at this time were Secretaries Hitchcock, Wilson and Root; Senators Fairbanks, Hanna and Burrows; John Day, Abner McKinley, the President's brother, and his wife; Dr. and Mrs. Barr, the President's niece, and her husband; Mrs. Barber and Mrs. Duncan, the President's sisters; Mrs. Mary Barber, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. McKinley's cousin; the physicians, including Dr. McBurney, who arrived after 8 o'clock; John G. Milburn, John N. Scratched, Harry Hamlin, all of this city; Secretary Cortelyou and a number of others. Rev. C. D. Wilson, a

Methodist minister, who was the President's pastor for three years at Canton, called at the residence to inquire whether his services were needed, but did not enter the house.

WORD THAT DEATH IS NEAR.

Another Methodist minister who has a church near by remained at the Milburn residence for two hours, in the belief that his services might be desired. At 9:30 Secretary Cortelyou, who had been much of the time with his dying chief, sent out formal notification that the President was dying. But the President lingered on, his pulse growing fainter and fainter.

There was no need for official bulletins after that. Those who came from the house at intervals told the same story—that the President was dying and that the end might come at any time. His tremendous vitality was the only remaining factor in the result and this gave hope of brief postponement of the end. Dr. Mynter thought he might last until 2 a. m. Dr. Mann said at 11 o'clock that the President was still alive and probably would live an hour. Thus moments lengthened to hours, and midnight came with the President still battling against death.

AT THE MIDNIGHT HOUR.

At the midnight hour the Milburn house was the center of a scene as animated as though it were midday, although a solemn hush hung over the great crowd of watchers. The entire lower part of the house was aglow with light, and the many attendants, friends and relatives could be seen within moving about and occasionally coming in groups to the front door for a breath of air. In the upper front chambers the lights were low, and around on the north side, where the chamber of death is located,

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Roosevelt Takes the Oath of Office.

ALBANY (N. Y.), Sept. 14.—

A When Theodore Roosevelt and his guides left Tahawaus Club early yesterday morning on a hunting expedition, the Vice-President fully believed that President McKinley was entirely out of danger and on the rapid road to recovery. The hunting party moved in the direction of Mount Marcy, the highest peak in the Adirondacks region.

They had not been gone over three hours when a mounted courier rode rapidly into Tahawaus Club with messages to the Vice-President, stating that President McKinley was in a critical condition. The message had been telegraphed to North Creek and from there telephoned to a point ten miles south of Tahawaus. Extra guides and runners were at once deployed from the club in the direction of Mount Marcy, with instructions to sound a general alarm in order to find the Vice-President as soon as possible.

The far-reaching megaphones and the rifle-cracking signals of the mountain-climbing guides, as hour after hour passed away, marked the passage of the searching mountaineers, as they climbed the steep ridges of Mount Marcy. Just as the afternoon merged with the shadows of early evening and as the searchers were nearing the summit of the lofty mountain, the responsive echoes of distant signals were heard and answered, and the scouts and the Roosevelt party came within hearing distance of each other.

When Colonel Roosevelt was reached and informed of the critical condition of the President he could scarcely believe the burden of the messages personally delivered to him. Startled at the serious nature of the news the Vice-President, at 6:45 o'clock, at once started back for the Tahawaus Club. In the meantime the Adirondack stage line placed at his disposal relays of horses covering the thirty-five miles to North Creek. A deluging thunderstorm had rendered the roads unusually heavy. Without any delay he moved as rapidly as possible in the direction of North Creek, the northern terminus of the Adirondacks Railroad, where his secretary, William Loeb Jr., and Superintendent C. D. Hammond of the Delaware and Hudson Railway, with a special train, were awaiting his arrival.

Soon after Colonel Roosevelt started night came on, and made the trip very difficult and dangerous, as mile after mile was traveled in almost impenetrable darkness, but the expert guides piloted the Vice-President safely to his objective point. Not until he dashed up to the special train at North Creek at 5:22 o'clock this morning did he learn that President McKinley had passed away at Buffalo at 2:15 o'clock. Mr. Loeb, Colonel Roosevelt's secretary, was the first to break the news to him. The new President was greatly affected by the intelligence, and expressed a desire to reach Buffalo as soon as possible. Within one minute after his arrival at North Creek he boarded the special train, which at once pulled out in the direction of Buffalo, via Saratoga and Albany. He did not complain of fatigue, but looked somewhat pale and careworn.

THE CEREMONIES AT BUFFALO.

BUFFALO, Sept. 14.—"In this hour of our terrible national bereavement I wish to say that I shall carry out absolutely unbroken the policy of President McKinley for peace, prosperity and honor of our beloved country."

With these words warm upon his lips, Theodore Roosevelt at 3:35 o'clock this afternoon took the oath as President of the United States. He had actually been President since McKinley had expired, the cloak of responsibility shifting from the shoulders of the dead President to the new one. The oath was administered

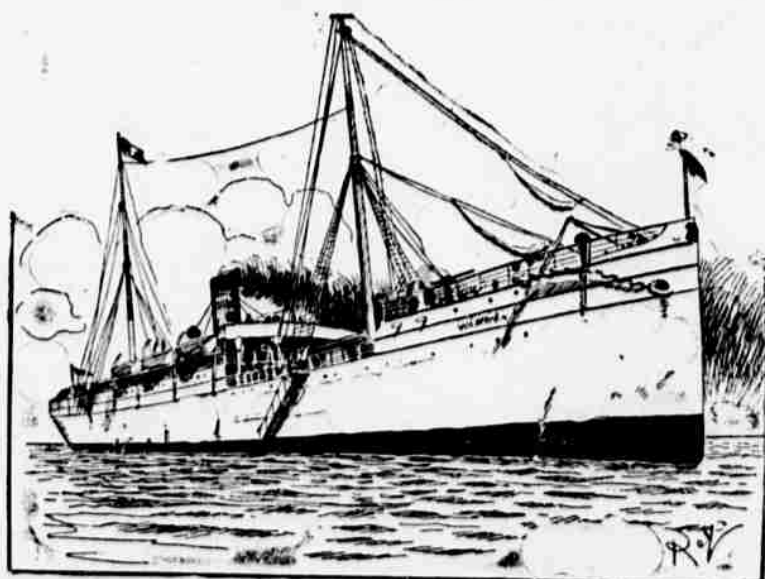
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PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

"E venni dal martirio a questa pace."

These words the Poet heard in Paradise,
Uttered by one who, bravely dying here,
In the true faith was living in that sphere,
Where the Celestial Cross of sacrifice
Spread its protecting arms athwart the skies;
And, set thereon, like jewels crystal clear,
The souls magnanimous, that knew not fear,
Flashed their effulgence on his dazzled eyes.
Ah me! how dark the discipline of pain,
Were not the suffering followed by the sense
Of infinite rest and infinite release!
This is our consolation: and again
A great soul cries to us in our suspense—
"I came from martyrdom unto this peace!"

U. S. T. WARREN.



The Vessel That Brought the Sad News to Hawaii.